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LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on 8 February 1996 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan on 8 February 1996

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan is authorized to state that despite all the efforts by the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan to resolve the issues in the inter-Tajik conflict, the continuation of the uninterrupted round of inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat, the strict observation by the Government of the terms of the truce in accordance with the requirements of the Tehran Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country, the situation in the Pamir regions of the Republic of Tajikistan remains tense as a result of the illegal actions of the opposition.

Thus, according to a report from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Tajikistan, starting on 28 January 1996 armed formations of the opposition field commander Zieev Mirzo stepped up military operations in the Tavildara region, for the purpose of establishing full control there. In their operations, the opposition guerrillas are committing the most flagrant violations of the Geneva Convention in their treatment of prisoners of war. Hiding behind a "living shield" of members of the Government forces, they are continuing attacks which are compelling the command of the armed forces of the Republic of Tajikistan to abandon the positions occupied by it in order to avoid unjustified losses of life among military personnel and the civilian population. Acting in this barbaric manner, the armed formations of the opposition have occupied a number of inhabited locations.

Next, the opposition leadership is attempting to influence the lawful Government of the Republic of Tajikistan through the use of force, in the belief that by such actions it will be able to compel it to make political concessions.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan once again states its position in the talks, which is based on strict compliance with the provisions of the documents previously signed by both sides, and reaffirms that its previous position regarding the solution of the inter-Tajik conflict exclusively by peaceful means remains unchanged.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan strongly condemns the terrorist methods being employed by the enemies of the Tajik people, and states in all responsibility that if the escalation of tension in the above-mentioned regions continues, it will take appropriate measures to ensure the stabilization of the situation in the country and compliance with international norms relating to human rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan appeals to the United Nations and to the observer countries at the inter-Tajik talks to assess the facts stated above in the appropriate light, to bring to the attention of the opposition leadership the unacceptability of seeking to influence the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan through the use of force, and to oblige it to halt the illegal actions by its formations.